



The Layston Newsletter



Dec 2023

Head's desk

We started our second half term exploring the values of Peace and Justice. The children have explored peace making actions ranging from helping to resolve conflict to creating space for stillness. Peace in the sense of total well-being, is God's intention for the whole of creation, and is a promise that awaits ultimate fulfilment.

As another exceptional autumn term draws to a close, we can all reflect on the high quality and memorable events of the last half term. Clearly fresh in our minds are the two school productions, *Cinderella Rockerfella* and our YR Nativity. Both have demonstrated the depth of talent, team work and high expectations that the staff team here at Layston have for your children. We were all richly rewarded with the children's commitment, enthusiasm and sense of wonderment and fun during the productions.



Our school choir also performed at our local care home Layston Grove. I have certainly been amazed and commend their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment to their various roles. Thank you once again to all the children, staff and to the parents/carers for supporting their children and the school.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Woolford from our school office who is moving to a school nearer her home. We would like to thank her for 7 years dedicated service and wish her all the best for the future. We are currently recruiting for a new member of the office team.

We also say a temporary goodbye to Miss Wilcox who will be leaving to have her baby after Christmas. We wish her well and are excited and looking forward to meeting the new addition to the Wilcox family in the New Year!




A huge thank you to all the parents who donated to the Royal British Legion, together we raised £174.91. Thank you for all your generosity in raising money for charity this term and all your donations were greatly appreciated.

Attendance

We continue to prioritise attendance and are delighted to list all the children who have achieved 100% attendance over the Autumn Term (7% up to 20th December).

- Reception - Edie
- Year 1 - Pheobe, Luna, Edward
- Year 2 - Marco, Poppy, Theo. G, Flossy, Ella-Grace, Alfie, Rocco

Certificates have been awarded as follows:

| | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
|  | Golden Certificates 100% Attendance | 11 total Gold |
|  | Silver Certificates 98% Attendance | 21 total Silver |
|  | Bronze Certificates 96% Attendance | 21 total Bronze |

In total there are 53 awards for 96% attendance and above.

Overall percentage for children across whole school is **92%**. Well done all!

From all of us at Layston, we wish you a very peaceful Christmas in the company of your friends and family and hope that the New Year brings you all you have wished for. Thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2024.



Reception

Reception have been working so hard this half term! It has been a joy to see them all so engaged and focused in their adult led learning and their child initiated learning. We have all made amazing progress in our phonics and are beginning to apply this in our reading and writing. In drawing club we made some amazing pictures linked to our story of Leaf man, after going out to collect leaves and then labelled them. We drew our very own version of Jack Frost, linked to the story of Here comes Jack Frost. We labelled our pictures using our phonics. We have also learnt lots of new words in our story of Stickman and wrote lots of CVC words linked to the story.



In maths we have been working really hard at subitising and being able to break down different number by noticing and saying what they see.



Reception have been amazing at learning about Why Christians celebrate Christmas and perform Nativities. We have learnt the story through drama and songs and signs. The children did an amazing job of performing to all the school and YR parents in the church.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1

We have had a busy half term in year 1 and it has been lovely to see all the children engaged in their learning. Have a lovely Christmas!

In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction within 10. Children are beginning to think about parts and whole exploring the cherry model.



In ICT, the children have enjoyed becoming TV Chefs. They have been able to practice using the IPADS when filming their own recipes. The children were also able to write and follow their instructions when making their own sandwiches.



In English, our focus book has been *Night before Christmas* by Clarke Moore. The children have enjoyed using time words when recalling St Nicholas events.



In History, the children have been learning about toys in the past. They had an exciting opportunity exploring and making their own toys.



Year 2

We have had a great half term in Year 2 with lots of lovely enrichment activities!

We started off the half term with our Great Fire of London Day. We enjoyed dressing up and taking part in all of the activities.



In Art we explored printing and rubbing. We used different resources to print with and then created our own poppy field artwork for Remembrance Day.



In Design and Technology we made our own vehicles using wheels and axles. We followed our designs and decided how we would attach the wheels and axles.

We would like to thank you all for your incredible generosity and kindness with our Christmas gifts as well as all of your support this term. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Team Year 2 ☺

Year 3

We have had a lovely half term in Year 3, the children have worked extremely hard and that has been shown across all areas of the curriculum.

In English we have written our very own newspaper report on 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' and written our own poems based on 'The Magic Box'. Both of these were thoroughly enjoyed by the children and they have shown excellent progression in their writing,



In Maths we have explored the column method for both addition and subtraction which the children have shown great perseverance with. We then moved on to looking at Multiplication and Division, where a growth in confidence has been evident. We have then tested our learning on TTRockstars where we have carried out whole class races and challenges.



In History we have explored the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The children was like for people in these times. This allowed us to enjoy and learn from our great trip to Celtic Harmony.



Year 4

It's been another action-packed half term! In Forest School, the children created natural artwork inspired by Andy Goldsworthy. In maths, we've done lots on addition and subtraction. And this week, the children finished writing their own versions of the Nativity story.



The children enjoyed the class party on Monday. Oh and there was also the small matter of a school play! All the children did brilliantly, and I was really proud of them.



Forest School

Despite the dreary wet weather this week, we have enjoyed dry sunny weather in Forest School more often than not this half- term. The autumn leaf colours were spectacular and inspired our temporary land art creations, garlands and leaf crowns. Wonderful that we can be creative outside, both individually and collaboratively with our friends.



A huge pile of autumn leaves, which everyone helped to collect, brought out the inner child in all of us - lots of jumping, diving, belly flopping, skipping, rolling, exuberant laughing and throwing. Pure joy!



Tree dressing ceremonies around the world often take place at the beginning of December, incorporating making wishes, music and dancing. Joining with this international trend, we decorated a special tree in Forest School to show our appreciation of all the trees at Layston. Pupils expressed a range of heartfelt wishes - more cuddles with Mummy and Daddy, lots of presents for Christmas, the best football team to win, global warming to be fixed and World Peace.



Talking of dressing and wishes ... a little reminder for the New Year, when the weather may be a little chilly still, bring in spare socks and wear layers on your Forest School days. We've lots more fun activity and discovery planned.

Wishing you and your families all a wonderful Christmas time and New Year.

FOLS

